



From the Director of Victim Services

Daily the Victim Services' Division receives numerous telephone calls from crime victims to inquire about a myriad of matters i.e. notifications, releases, restitution, parole hearings, decisions, community supervision,

social media concerns, threats, unwanted contact etc. Since May 2015, we have been keeping a log of all victim calls received and returned.

To date, we have logged approximately 7,600 entries, averaging 106 calls per month. Our fiscal year ended June 30th and within the year, we logged 1,505 calls averaging 125 call per month. Answering calls and navigating victims through the corrections process is a high priority for TDOC Victim Services' Division and our Victim Coordinators. The first goal for our staff when a call is received is to listen attentively with compassion. Every call is answered and/or returned within 24 hours; each caller is treated with sensitivity, respect and dignity with confidentiality being key.

Tamika Dobbins

September 2020

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

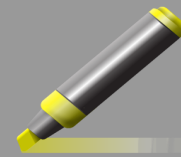
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet

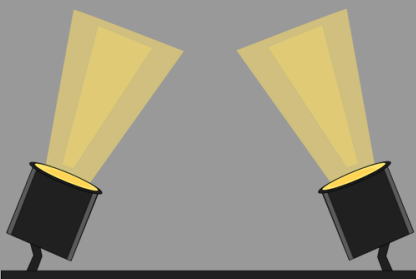


Julie (Ashley) Weems started her career at Turney Center Industrial Complex-Main in 2013 as a contract employee with Centurion. She worked as a Medical Records Clerk until being hired in 2018 as the Institutional Records

Supervisor following the retirement of Mrs. Valerie Bishop. Since working in the records office, I've had the opportunity to help others and be a listening ear to victims, victim's families and offender's families. At times, it can be stressful and even emotional, but it can also be rewarding. People need someone to hear them and know they are being shown a bit of kindness. It can make all the difference especially since there are no victimless crimes.

When not working, I enjoy spending time with family. I am a mother to a 10 year old boy who keeps me on my toes daily. I also enjoy traveling and participating in outdoor sports such as hiking, kayaking, skydiving and more.

This year has been difficult, and our department has seen many changes. We've all had to adjust in one way or another. If we continue to work together, we can get through anything! One mission, one team, one family.



September: Suicide Prevention Month

In the United States alone, someone dies by suicide once every 12 minutes. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 and 24. But because suicide has been considered such a “taboo” subject to think or to talk about, there are a lot of misconceptions about which individuals may be at risk, about when, how and why people might consider killing themselves, and about how best to help yourself or someone else who’s contemplating suicide.

According to the 2011 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey in Tennessee, over 1 out of 7 youth seriously considered suicide and almost 1 out of 16 made an attempt. Almost all young people who are contemplating suicide show clear signs before the attempt. If educators are trained to recognize these signs, we have a good chance to identify and help at risk youth

This misinformation – or the lack of information altogether – often means that desperate people can’t get the help they need in times of crisis. Being well-informed about depression and suicide can help you save your own life or the life of someone you know or love!

FACTS

- Suicide is preventable. Most suicidal people desperately want to live; they are just unable to see alternatives to their problems
- Most suicidal people give definite warning signals of their suicidal intentions, but others are often unaware of the significance of these warnings or unsure what to do about them.
- Talking about suicide does not cause someone to become suicidal.
- Four times more men than women kill themselves, but three times more women than men attempt suicide.
- Firearms are the most common method of suicide regardless of sex and race.



TDOC Central Office Monthly Stats

Telephone Calls	August	Notifications	August
Phone calls Received/Returned	154	Registration	168
Parties Registered for Notifications	134	Movement	6
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	8	Advance Release	899
Referrals	24	Final Release *	81
Release/Parole Inquiry	41	Death	5
Other	76	Other	9

Announcements



SAVE THE DATE

"Purple with a Purpose Day" Wednesday, October 7th

In honor of domestic violence victims, please wear the color purple and take a picture and send to Tamika.Dobbins@tn.gov to be featured in our October Newsletter.



WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU ARE A
VICTIM OF CRIME



Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund - 615.741.2734

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Tennessee Department of Correction

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